THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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VISITORS WELCOME

The San Antonio Radio Club meets every first and third Friday at Draughon's Business College, 409 E. Martin St.

DX NOTES

DAMAO, DIU and GOA captured by Union of India troops! So read the recent headlines; and with this change in ownership of the three tiny Portugese enclaves scattered across India, three more DX countries disappear from the official DXCC country list. Few indeed are the DX men fortunate enough to have worked any of these rare spots. CR8AC, who was active from Goa in 1958-59 was one of the most elusive DX stations ever to appear on any band. His standard operating technique has been described as "receiver roulette". It consisted of giving his receiver dial a mighty twirl upon completion of a QSO in any or all directions; and working the next contact wherever his receiver stopped. The net result of this foible was to scatter frantically calling DX stations from 14,000 kcs. to 14,350 kcs. He played "receiver roulette" after calling CQ too; so no one ever knew where to call or where he might be listing. Since CR8AC used to put through solid S-8 signals, the number of DX'ers who went completely out of their minds trying to whok him may never be known.

Diu is not known to have ever been represented on the air. Damao was put on the air briefly in the late 1940's by a portable Swiss station, but few contacts were made.

Propagation conditions remain poor and worse on 28, 21 and 14 mcs. Even 7 mcs. has been afflicted by poor conditions lately. One bright spot in this otherwise dismal saga, however, was the excellent propagation which occurred the weekend of November 26, the CQ World-Wide CW DX Contest weekend. The propagation forecast for that period was for "unsettled" conditions. Happily for all, the conditions settled in the right direction, that is in the direction of magnificently high MUF's; and the DX rolled in on all bands from 28 to 3.5 mcs. Your author worked 78 countries in 35 zones and 212 DX QSO's on 21 mcs. during the contest period. W5EJT worked over a dozen countries and all continents except Europe on 3.5 mc. The Hallicrafters DX-pedition to the Vatican (HV1CN operated by SS-King W9IOP) put through S-8-9 signals on all bands 80 through 10; and gave dozens of W5's their first QSO with Europes' rarest country. What a dream come true if such activity could prevail every weekend!

Christmas time is a good time to remember our DX-friends overseas. A most appropriate way of doing this is through donating your obsolete Callbooks. They are most appreciated overseas. If you have any, just give them to W5EJT or W5LGG and we will send them to one of the thousands of overseas hams who has said he would like one. It's our chance to make their new year a happier one too.

73 & DX,
Len, W5LGG

Editor	K5PKX
VHF Editor	W5LFM
DX Editor	W5LGG
40 Meter Editor	K5MOF
SSB Editor	W5BVI
Circulation Manager	K5OPT

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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB, W5SC
W5IWE, Pres. K5VCR, V. P.
W5EDZ, Sec. K5UKN, Treas.

ALAMO YLS

The Alamo YLS held their November meeting at the QTH of K5OPT at which time new officers were elected. Gerry Buchanan, K5YCE, was elected President, with Katherine Pirie, K5TSZ, as Vice-President. Sally Flesher, K5UTO, is the new Sec., & Treas. for 1962

Anyone working four of the members can apply for the Alamo YL certificate. Inez Cole, W5WXT is permanent certificate custodian. Their next meeting will be on the 21st of January from 3 to 5 P.M. All licensed ladies or those interested in obtaining their license are invited to attend. Meeting will be at the QTH ofAileen Turnage, K5OPV, 127 E. Creath.

VHF AND UP

As all amateurs know by now, Project OSCAR is a success. Orbit Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio, OSCAR, was launched by the Air Force on 12 Dec. 61, with Discoverer 36. The tiny 10 lb. package went along as ballast when the Agena B was sent aloft and on the first orbit was separated from the rocket.

OSCAR is transmitting with 100 milliwatts output on 145.00 mc. and is sending HI in code at a rather hasty clip. The rate of the HI's changes directly with temperature of the satellite.

Locally, Bro. Hamm, W5FMG, and Pat Patterson, W5VY, have locked on to the passes and report very strong signals with an occasional missing of dots, perhaps due to the cold fist of OSCAR!

The specifics of OSCAR are as follows: object—1961 A Kappa 2, period —88.5 min., inclination to equator—81.2 deg. (almost north-south), height—about 160 to 250 statute miles, passes are 26 min. later each day, passes are 8 deg. further west each day for a given orbit, each orbit is 23 deg. further west from the earlier one, and visual magnitude is minus 12. The batteries powering the satellite are expected to last 3 to 4 weeks so the signals should be around until early January, 62.

Bro. Hamm has received OSCAR signals for as long as 12 min. on a pass and W5VY reports the signals as strong as 25 db. above receiver noise using his 2 meter co-linear array. Bro. Bill hurredly put up a new vertically-stacked horizontal omni so that he won't have to worry about beam heading. Called the Big Wheel, the antenna is described in QST for Sept. and Oct. 61.

Doppler shift greater than 6 kc. has

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FRED K5ENK PAUL K5OHG JIM K5TYI

been reported by W5VY so that on narrow i-f bandwidths, close tuning is a must. The signals tend to pop in rather suddenly as the line-of-sight path is completed and are easy to hold on to once the signal is locked-on.

As is usually the case when someone waits anxiously for something to happen, Derwin King, W5LUU, was caught out of town in Washington, and New York, and had to be content to read the papers and listen to the BC band for news of OSCAR orbiting. However, he's locked on now. Sam VanderWeide, W5KRH, is also eagerly seeking the signals but wishes the keying wheel in the satellite would slow down so he could copy the code on paper.

Complete success of the Discoverer 36 launch came on 16 Dec. 61 when the Air Force recovered the gold-plated capsule near Hawaii which was ejected from the Agena B rocket while over Alaska. It's been a good year for amateur radio, so to all a good HI. AR.

Cal Graf, W5LFM

SINGLE SIDE-BAND

There hasn't been too much activity this month with the Holidays and other outside interest. The upper frequencies have been very erratic with all of them closing up early in the evening. There are still some new calls turning up on SSB on 20 meters, so we say "Welcome" and hope you like the new mode of operation. The local crowd hasn't been showing up on 20 meter SSB lately for the round tables, so come on back and say hello to the new SSB'er. There isn't much new in the way of equipment other than some of 6 meter SSB equipment which is turning up in QST and CQ. We noticed that a member of people have started building four 811A's Finals. There is a fine article in June QST, which I followed and now have a new final for the price of $24 plus a few raids on various junk boxes around town. With that we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

73 and Good SSB'ing,
Mac, W5BVI

40 METERS

The 40 meter band has been acting peculiar of late. Early morning operating shows W9's and W4's coming in pretty good. Short skip doesn't take place until about 8 A.M.

Cliff, W5FYO has his 40 meter beam working real good these days. He has been taking all the locals in comparative reports around the country. Marion, W5DBN, is just about ready to mount his 3 element homebrew beam. It will be interesting to see how his comparative reports will be against Cliff's DuoBander (See Gutter Dope—Editor).

Stations heard on the band: W8TSP /M5, Joe; K5DNE, Roy; W5OSK, Al; W5SFL; W5ZIB, Gordon; W5-EAN, Howard; K5DXB, Stu; WA5-ALH, Jim; K5BCF/5; and George, W5KCV, who just received his General ticket.

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You say old St. Nick didn't do right by you. The XYL didn't get you the KWM-2 you wanted.

Tell you what I'm going to do. I can probably give you enough for your old gear to more than cover the down payment on the super gizmo deluxe you want.

Or maybe there's enough hold back Xmas Bonus money to cover the down payment. Don't forget, with Skinny Charlie it only costs 10% down, the balance like rent. Come see me or drop me a card and we'll wheel & deal.

K5VCR Charlie | W5DBN Marion | K5FOU James | K5WLQ Jimmy

Joe, W8TSP/5, is headed up to Ohio for the Christmas holidays. K5TYK, WA5ALH and W5OMR busy handling emergency traffic from South America. They located some serum in San Antonio that was urgently needed for a lukemia victim in Urguay and had it shipped via Pan American Airways.

73 for the holiday season,
K5MOF, Aubrey

GUTTER DOPE

Cliff, W5FYO, was seen twisting knobs on new receivers the other day. Is it possible he is going to break down and buy a new one? Maybe the old one needs a new "Cats Whisker" Hi.

The San Antonio Radio Club held their Annual Christmas party on December 2nd at Skipper's restaurant. About 60 people attended and gifts were exchanged as in previous years. W5FND, Willard, was remembered by Santa and had a carload of goodies to take home from the party.

K5GMV, Earl, can be heard mobiling around town on 40 meters.

The Chastains, W0ERC (ex K5GUH) and K5OPS/0 should soon be booming into San Antonio on their 40 meter antenna that they are erecting in Denver.

K5SJB, Robbie, is taking up still another hobby. He has taken up chasing women; on the air, that is, for certificates.

FOR SALE

Hy Gain 14AVS Slim Trap vertical antenna for 10, 15, 20 & 40 meters . . . $17.50

10 meter Workshop 3 element beam and sectional mast . . . $20.00

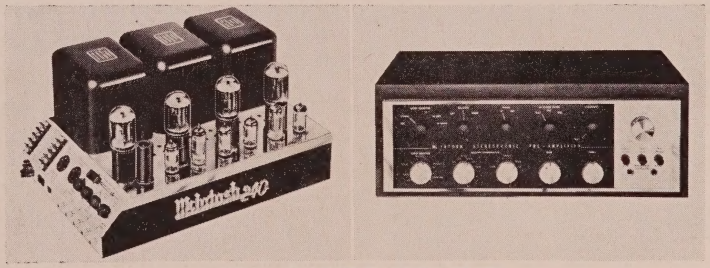
James M. Moran, K5HTB
DI 4-2013
222 Sonata Drive

FOR SALE

Radio receiver, National NC-98, 4 bands; 0.5-40 Mc w/matching 8-in. 8-ohm speaker. Priced right.

Mike Keane, K5AIJ
DI 2-7841 or GE 2-5221

AUDIO KITS



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